12: Churchill S-5 (1952) 1954 ME1 Lebanon ME1

6.12 Reasons of head of household for disliking present job, Table 87

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For those unhappy in their present positions, the major reason given was economic (44 %) but the second largest group (28 %) resented their jobs because they were too hard.

6.13 Occupational preference of head of household, Table 88

Respondents were then asked to state the occupation in which they would like to be employed. Free responses were again taken and were judged as to their level of reality. That is, if a porter wanted to become a surgeon, it was judged to be an impossible level of aspiration. Forty percent of the respondents were so satisfied with their present position that they indicated no other desires. Only seven percent were judged to have impossible desires in occupations. This is particularly striking since no attempt was made to precondition the respondent by limiting his range of choice. The Beiruti head of household seems to be practical even considering that thirty-two percent expressed job preferences which were improbable.

6.14 Occupational preference of head of household for eldest son, Table 89

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A striking difference between the respondents own occupational desires and those which they held for their children, at least male children, was revealed in answer to the question as to what they would like their eldest sons to be. Each of the response categories is striking. The same lack of impossible objectives was seen, occuring as it did in only six percent of the cases. A slightly different category was used, namely "very possible" into which forty-four percent of the answers fell - indicating a higher level of hardheadedness in attitudes toward children than towards themselves. Fewer wanted their children to continue in their present occupations (7 %). Of course, this may be low

12: Churchill S-S (1952) 1854 ME1 Lebanon ME1

858
461 because a number are not of working age as yet. Some insight into the psychology of the household heads is evidenced in the low number (4 %) who answered freely that they wanted their eldest sons to choose their own jobs.

6.13 Incidence of village work by head of household for part of year, Table 90

464 Respondents were asked if they worked in the villages part of the year. Only one in twenty answered affirmatively. Since the sample is so small further analysis is unreliable. Results are presented, however, for whatever interest they may have in Tables 91, 92 and 93.

Summary

463 The classification scheme is crude, but is believed to give a fairer breakdown in the major categories than any existing system. Some of the categories are too broad, but further refinement was impossible with this size sample.

For a city its size, the division of labour is quite extensive. Beirut is a city of small businesses eking out a subsistence. As a footnote to this, it must be pointed out that many people have more than one job, far more than is usual in most cities.

As the division of labour is splintered, so also do many people operate as jacks-of-all-trades. For example, the tinker-plumber-electrician-plasterer service-man is a combination which combines the skills of what would be decidedly separate occupations in many cities. One unfortunate result of this is the all too often low level of skill which results from mastering none of the services fully.

It will be remembered that respondents were drawn only from political Beirut. The proportions of occupations are therefore only for the city residents. They might conceivably be altered if those who commute to the city had been included in the study.

p. 19(B)

Table 88

Occupational Preference of Head of Household

Degree of reasonableness	Number	Percent	sp.
Total	1459	100.00	
Possible but improbable	463	31.73	.012
Possible and reachable	323	22.14	.011
Impossible	96	6.58	.006
Satisfied with present	577	39.55	.013

Table 89

Occupational Preference of Head of Household for Oldest Son

Degree of reasonableness	Number	Percent	sp.
Total	1346	100.00	
Possible but improbable	405	30.09	.012
Very possible	592	43.98	.013
Same as father	108	8.02	.007
Impossible	83	6.17	.006
What he is doing	100	7.43	.007
What he chooses	58	4.31	.005

p. 572(c)